wards. in accordance with approved guidelines.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Government of Manipur have made a demand for reimbursement of security related expenditure. Reimbursement will be in accordance with approved norms and subject to availability of funds.

New strategy for checking excise evasion

2540. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Excise and Customs has decided to target 3000 Corporates, including medium scale production units, as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated the 10th November, 1998;

(b) if so, what new strategy C.B.E.C. has adopted to check evasion of excise duty and amount expected to be collected in terms of additional revenues during 1998-99; and

(c) what are names of top 25 major assessees who are paying excise worth Rs. 50-100 crores in India and to whom C.B.E.C. has so far targeted in order to plug the excise leakage, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The Central Board of Excise and Customs has decided to introduce a new Audit System and to audit the top 3000 duty paying Central Excise assessees, to begin with, and to cover other assesees subsequently. This new audit system is being developed with expert advice of Revenue Canada, which is a part of the agreement between the Government of India and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), The full fledged implementation will take some time.

(b) As part of general strategy to bolster revenue, the Central Board of Excise & Customs has issued instructions to the field formations to take anti-evasion measures so as to prevent and detect evasion of central excise duty. The strategy includes effective gathering of intelligence, mounting up surveillance of evasion prone units/industrial areas, strict Modvat checkings by constituting Special Modvat Audit Teams especially verification of modvatable invoices vis-a-vis the inputs received, stock verification of inputs and finished goods, increased transit checkings especially at odd hours and holidays etc. The exact quantification of the amount of evasion is not possible.

(c) The Central Board of Excise and Customs has not targeted any specific assessee for anti-evasion oriented checkings. The anti-evasion checkings and MODVAT verification are done as a part of general strategy and audit is conducted on annual basis.

Excise duty evasion by tea companies

2541. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the excise duty on packet tea is still continuing;

(b) what are the actual revenues earned against phased targets for excise duty on packet tea from June to October, 1998;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of small companies have come up in tea market and thriving on excise duty evasion; and

(d) if so, the details regarding such firms and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Central excise duty @ 8% ad valorem is presently leviable on branded tea put in unit containers containing tea more than 100 grams and upto 20 kilograms per pack.

(b) The amount of central excise duty collected on tea from June to September, 1998 is Rs. 47.50 crore. The figure is